

Convention Scene . . . By George Dixon

Childe Harold Rides Again

CHICAGO—It looks like Stassen—but I will leave you to decide for what. Childe Harold is here at another Republican National Convention, still trying to stop Nixon. My own notion is he wants to become known as the stopper in the political bathtub that doesn't work.

The Harder Harold tries to stop a flow the faster it gurgles past him. Some humanitarian ought to pull Harold the Stopper out of the tub before he is washed down the drain.

This is enough of Stassen—and I venture Vice President Nixon feels the same way. Let us move on to the more arresting personality of Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, who also wants to stop Nixon but hasn't Stassen's sacrificial ambition to be the leaky stopper. Instead of Rocky the Stopper, he wants to be known as Rock the Riddle.

The Governor of New York says he's not a candidate. Neither am I. But even implacable foes who call me a loudmouth concede Rock is not a candidate more loudly.



Dixon

HERBIE KLEIN, who talks for Nixon the way Jim Hagerty talks for President Eisenhower—although sometimes less cryptically—says his boss has put no pressure upon Rockefeller to make him change his mind and stand for Vice President. This I can believe. Nixon says the door is still open for Rockefeller but I think it's a revolving door.

Mention of Hagerty reminds me I must squelch a rumor. There seems to be little truth in reports that Mr. Eisenhower's Jimsie will arrive here by Polaris missile. Ike needs him too much to fire him—even under water. And you can't submerge and surface on a golf course.

I hate to mention Mr. Eisenhower's golfing because it's been overmentioned but it would be poor reporting to ignore the blatantly obvious fact that top Republican leaders here are very unhappy about Ike spending a fortnite on the links at a time like this. They feel it would be better party public relations to have the party head visiting the White House instead of Newport, R. I.

THE CONVENTION strategists also are doleful about forthcoming campaign slogans. They had hoped to

run Nixon on a slogan of "Peace, Prosperity, Progress." The braintrusters, headed by a triumvirate of Sen. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania; Undersecretary of the Treasury Fred Scribner and former Republican National Chairman Meade H. Alcorn, are afraid such a hopeful slogan would be twisted by Democratic twistmasters into "dissension, depression, retrogression."

Many of my colleagues here keep moaning the Republicans are having a dull convention. They started moaning the same thing about the Democrats in Los Angeles and then—blam!—came the surprise nomination of Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson for Vice President. Maybe we'll have a surprise here. I keep looking for surprises but the only one I've seen so far in Chicago is a tomato surprise.

I SUPPOSE we could have all sorts of surprises but I can't guess which is most likely. I doubt if Adlai Stevenson and Eleanor Roosevelt would surprise us by seconding the nomination of Nixon and urging the demonstrators to cease demonstrating.

It'd be a surprise equal to the last-place Chicago Cubs clinching the National League pennant during the convention.